DEMENTIA GRANTS PROGRAM

DEMENTIA AUSTRALIA RESEARCH FOUNDATION – YULGILBAR INNOVATION GRANT

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS
2018
BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This document contains important information for applicants regarding the application procedure and eligibility conditions for the 2018 Dementia Australia Research Foundation and The Yulgilbar Foundation Innovation Grant.

Applicants should read all of the information included in this document and liaise with their host institution’s research office before contacting the Foundation with any queries regarding the application process or eligibility conditions.

Key Dates
- **Expression of Interest Open**: 12 April 2018 (9.00 am AEST)
- **Expression of Interest Close**: 31 May 2018 (5.00 pm AEST)

- **Invited Full Applications Open**: 1 July 2018 (9.00 am AEST)
- **Invited Full Applications Close**: 31 August 2018 (5.00 pm AEST)

**LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

- **Outcomes Announced**: October 2018
- **Funding Commences**: January 2019, or by arrangement

INTRODUCTION

The Innovation Grant is jointly funded by the Dementia Australia Research Foundation, the Dementia Australia Research Foundation – Victoria and The Yulgilbar Foundation, demonstrating our organisations’ collective commitment to supporting discoveries in dementia.

The Dementia Australia Research Foundation is the research arm of Dementia Australia. The Foundation provides funding to support new and emerging dementia researchers, and works with consumers to ensure that research reflects their concerns and it promotes understanding and awareness of dementia research among the community. The Foundation is entirely funded by donations and support from members of the public and Australian businesses and is managed by Dementia Australia (Barton Office). Further information about the Foundation including previous grant rounds and outcomes can be found at: https://www.dementia.org.au/research.

The Foundation also advertises, assesses and administers grants on behalf of Dementia Australia Research Foundation – Victoria, a separately incorporated research foundation owned by Dementia Australia (VIC Division). Established in 2012, the Dementia Australia Research Foundation – Victoria provides research grants to Australian based dementia researchers, with priority given to projects with potential benefits for Victorians.
The Yulgilbar Foundation was established in 2001 as a philanthropic foundation. In 2014, it commenced a special program of research grants named the Yulgilbar Alzheimer’s Research Program (YARP). Their mission is to assist in supporting discoveries that will prevent, delay the onset, slow down the progress and ultimately, cure Alzheimer’s disease.

The information in this booklet is designed to help those intending to apply for funding through the Dementia Australia Research Foundation – Yulgilbar Innovation Grant. Applicants should read this document thoroughly in order to understand the conditions and application procedure. In most cases the answer to frequently asked questions can be found in this document. Any questions can be put in writing to foundation@dementia.org.au.

**DEMENTIA AUSTRALIA RESEARCH FOUNDATION – YULGILBAR INNOVATION GRANT**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Dementia Australia Research Foundation – Yulgilbar Innovation Grant is to fund generously a single, high-quality, innovative and possibly paradigm-changing research project that could transform the landscape of dementia research. The Grant is designed to attract proposals from new groups, which may be multi-disciplinary, bringing expertise from outside (as well as within) the field of dementia, and with the potential to offer new approaches and collaborations nationally and internationally.

The Grant will offer $1 million over three years to ensure that researchers are adequately resourced and financially supported. Although the support is generous, the sponsors hope that the applicants will find ways to leverage further funding and in kind support for the project. Applications will be internationally peer reviewed in two stages; only applications that are judged by the review panel to have a chance of success will be asked for a detailed application.

**Topic and Scope**

The purpose of the Grant is to support a new, innovative and ambitious research program of high quality that could accelerate progress towards understanding the disease and improving treatments for the common forms of dementia. The Grant is not restricted to any one area of research: biomedical (lab-based), clinical or psychosocial research projects will be considered, as long as the project brings something fresh and new to the field and the findings have the potential to translate into clinical practice. The sponsors of the Grant encourage international collaboration, wish to ensure that early career researchers are involved in a significant way in the research, and request that those directly affected by dementia, including carers, are involved in the development of the program.
Project Team

The individuals applying for funds must have the research credentials and appropriate strength in proposal and team. Lead researchers do not necessarily need to show a track record in dementia research if the project involves the application of knowledge and findings from another field to the proposed studies on dementia. However, applications should indicate that arrangements will be in place to ensure the involvement of people living with dementia and/or their carers can be conducted appropriately by the team.

We encourage applications from multi-disciplinary teams including scientists, biotech, health professionals and public health researchers. It is recommended that that the project team includes early career researchers and that people living with dementia and/or those involved in their care are represented or consulted throughout the project.

Award Funding

Award funding consists of one project grant of $1 million over 3 years.

Overheads (e.g. an infrastructure levy) will not be covered by the grant. As the Dementia Australia Research Foundation is currently listed on the Australia Competitive Grants Register (ACGR), infrastructure costs will be covered by the Commonwealth Government’s Research Block Grants scheme. It is desirable that host institutions (universities, institutes, hospitals or start-up biotech companies) also provide financial support, which may include additional project or staff funding, in-kind support or access to equipment.

Acknowledgement of support

Successful applicants must acknowledge the support of the Dementia Australia Research Foundation and The Yulgilbar Foundation in all publications, presentations, summary findings and media announcements relating to the research, provide progress reports on the research and be prepared to assist the Dementia Australia Research Foundation and The Yulgilbar Foundation, if required, by speaking at functions, attending specified conferences, hosting laboratory visits, or being featured in media articles/releases.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for the grant in this funding round:

1. At the time of acceptance and for the duration of a grant, the first Chief Investigator (CIA) must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, a permanent resident of Australia or have an appropriate work visa in place at the time of acceptance and for the duration of the project. The CIA must also be based in Australia for at least 80% of the funding period. All applicants must provide evidence to their host institution to support this criterion.

2. The research must be conducted in Australia and address the topic and scope of the funding round.
3. The research must be approved by an authorised ethics committee, if applicable. It should be noted that grant payments may be withheld until ethics approval has been obtained.

It is **highly recommended** that:

4. Early-career researchers are integral to the project team. For the purposes of this Grant, an early-career researcher is defined as a researcher who has been awarded their PhD within eight years of the application closing date, unless circumstances leading to career interruption apply. Such circumstances are defined for this purpose as “factors that are generally outside an applicant’s control. They may include an episode of extended illness, parental leave or other personal matters, but do not include matters arising from normal vocational or research related activities, such as an applicant’s choice to pursue activities or seek employment outside of research.”

5. That there is involvement of people with dementia, their carers and families and the wider public if appropriate throughout the project (beyond the role of consumers as participants). This may be achieved in any number of ways:

   a. Consulting them about the research proposal – to ensure that it addresses an area of priority for them.

   b. Including them as joint grant holders or co-applicants on your research proposal.

   c. Inviting them to be a member of a Steering Committee or Advisory Group or ‘research buddy’.

   d. Inviting them to comment on and develop patient information leaflets or other research materials.

   e. Involving them in the dissemination of research outcomes and the development of plain language project summaries.

   Further information on involving members of the public in research is available [here](https://www.dementia.org.au/resources/dementia-language-guidelines).

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

A two-stage application process will be adopted. Applicants must first complete an expression of interest (EOI) and, if invited, a full application at a later date.

Please ensure that you are using appropriate language and terminology throughout your application. For example, many people with dementia prefer not to be referred to directly or indirectly as a ‘dementia sufferer’. A guide to dementia-friendly language is available at [https://www.dementia.org.au/resources/dementia-language-guidelines](https://www.dementia.org.au/resources/dementia-language-guidelines).
Online application form

Applications must be submitted online via an application portal available through the Dementia Australia Research Foundation website (https://www.dementia.org.au/research/grants). The portal will close at the advertised closing date, after which applicants will not be able to upload or modify any part of their application.

To ensure that all relevant information is entered, each page of the application form needs to be completed in full before moving onto the next. A template may be downloaded from the website at https://www.dementia.org.au/research/grants/information-for-applicants to work on the application offline and to view each section of the application form.

If applicants experience technical errors when uploading an application, contact foundation@dementia.org.au.

Late applications, and applications sent by mail or email will not be accepted.
The online application form includes a number of required fields to enter the portal, such as:

- Details of each investigator on the research team (up to 4 investigators are permitted on the application form; additional investigators may be included in an attachment)
- Contact details of the host institution
- Project title
- Lay project summary (150 word limit)

Expression of interest stage and required attachments

As well as completing the online application form, applicants must provide the following supporting documents (in PDF format) on the application portal. Applications that do not include the required documentation will be considered ineligible and may not be assessed. Please note that attachments cannot not be amended or added to the application after the application closing date.

1. **Evidence of Australian or New Zealand citizenship, permanent residency or appropriate work visa (required for CIA)**
   Provide a scanned copy of a birth certificate, passport, visa documentation or official documentation from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to your host institution (your institution may have this information on file). If applicable, an appropriate work visa must be in place at the time of acceptance and for the duration of the project. Statutory Declarations, Medicare cards, Australian driver’s licences or other documents will not be accepted as proof of permanent residency or citizenship.

2. **Academic CV (maximum 10 pages, required for CIA)**
   Include publications, grants (funding body, amount and investigator status), awards, conference presentations and service to the academic community.
3. Expression of interest
The purpose of the EOI stage is to present, in a clear and concise manner, how your project has the potential to bring new groups and ideas into dementia research, to change the paradigms of dementia research, and to translate into clinical practice. This EOI should not exceed two pages, with a minimum font size of 11 and standard margins. Any additional pages, or any explanatory appendices, will not be assessed. The two-page proposal should include brief notes on each of the following sections:

a. **Aims**: List specific aims and potential significance of the project. Clearly state why the project has the potential to transform the field and lead to major advances in dementia research.

b. **Scientific Rationale and Background**: Summarise work in this field which provides the basis for the proposed research project.

c. **Research Methodology**: Provide an outline of the proposed methods and design.

d. **Key References**: Please include a list of up to 5 key references cited in the proposal.

e. **Research Team**: Describe the roles of research team members.

f. **Early Career Researchers**: Demonstrate involvement of early career researchers in the project.

g. **Community and Carers**: Show how people with dementia, their carers and families and/or the wider public will be involved in your project.

4. **Endorsement Form(s)** signed by:
   - Each investigator named in the application, confirming their contribution to the project as described in the application.
   - The Head of Administering Institution (or nominee) in which the research will take place.


**Invited Full Application**
Short-listed applicants will be invited to submit a full application. Further details regarding the information required and submission process will be provided to applicants at the time of invitation. In summary, applicants will be asked to provide a detailed research proposal including budget, an academic CV for each named investigator and a short outline of their experience and roles.

**ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND CRITERIA**

**Eligibility check**
The Dementia Australia Research Foundation staff will check all applications after the application closing date to ensure compliance with eligibility criteria and conditions of award. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that they meet all eligibility criteria and conditions.
of the award prior to submitting an application. The Dementia Australia Research Foundation reserves the right to rule out of contention any application that does not include proof of eligibility without further assessment. Please note that applicants must inform the Dementia Australia Research Foundation if their eligibility against the stated criteria changes in any way during the assessment process. Funding will not commence until all relevant requirements, including eligibility, have been met.

Assessment process

Applications will undergo peer-review by a panel of international external reviewers with expertise in the field under investigation. An initial cull of non-competitive EOIs will be performed by this panel and applicants of potentially fundable projects will be invited to submit a full application. Full applications will be ranked by merit by the expert review panel. The Dementia Australia Research Foundation Scientific Panel will liaise with the YARP Advisory Group throughout the process and, based on the recommendation of the expert review panel, the sponsors will make a joint decision on the successful applicant.

The following assessment criteria will be used for rating applications:

1. **Innovation and Originality (50% weight)**

   This criterion considers the novelty and originality of the proposed project and the extent to which it has the capacity, if successful, to introduce innovative and new research directions, with benefit to affected individuals, in the field of dementia research.

2. **Scientific Merit and Quality (30% weight)**

   The significance and value of the proposed research is considered, along with the clarity of the hypotheses or research objectives, and the suitability of the research methodology and research plan. The general scientific relevance should be evident in the project proposal, and the research methodology should be sound and clearly presented. Projects must also be feasible and realistic within the available timeframe and budget.

3. **Track record of the research team (20% weight)**

   This criterion considers whether the research team’s previous research experience demonstrates that they are capable of successfully undertaking the proposed research and disseminating the outcomes. Track record (research training, publications, awards and other relevant experience) will be assessed relative to opportunity and must be documented in the supporting CV if a full application has been requested.

   Applicants do not necessarily need to show a track record in dementia research if the project involves the application of knowledge and findings from another field. However, evidence of excellence in some field of research should be demonstrated.
FURTHER INFORMATION

For any enquiries please email: foundation@dementia.org.au. Further funding opportunities will be available through the Dementia Australia Research Foundation (see https://www.dementia.org.au/research/grants) throughout the year.